

**CONNECTICUT DRIVER EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
SUPPORTS**

COMMITTEE BILL NO. 5648

LCO NO. 4382

04382HB05648TRA

Dear Mr. Chairman and Respected Members of Committee:

My name is Gary Knepler. I am a resident of Trumbull, Connecticut and operate the Gary Knepler Driving Schools in Monroe and Stratford, Connecticut. We are currently in our fifty-third year of serving Connecticut drivers. I am speaking to you today as the president of the Connecticut Driver Education Association.

The Connecticut Driver Education Association (CDSEA) is and has been the main voice for driver education and highway safety concerns in the State of Connecticut. We are affiliated with the American Driver Traffic Safety Education Association (ADTSEA) and the New England Traffic Safety Education Association (NETSEA) and have existed for the past fifty years. Our members have served as traffic safety consultants and have organized and participated in national and international driver education and traffic safety conferences and campaigns. We applaud and thereby support your efforts to mandate *AN ACT REQUIRING MANDATORY RETESTING OF KNOWLEDGE OF DRIVING LAWS PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENSE TO A PERSON WHO IS SIXTEEN OR SEVENTEEN YEARS OF AGE.*

We also support extending the same license testing procedure to the adult population of permit exam and then a knowledge exam. This will encourage safety through knowledge and application.

The current system only emphasizes an economic savings for the DMV and truly threatens highway safety.

The current Connecticut approach to teen driver education was implemented in Texas and found to be a *deadly* mistake. A NHTSA

study released in 2007 showed a 48% rise in teen crashes that resulted in injury and fatality. An Oregon study released in April, 2008 proved that a comprehensive driver education program in cooperation with a strong parent component matched with a strong GDL actually decreased crashes that resulted in injuries and fatalities by 28%.

The CDSEA has serious concerns regarding the current Connecticut Teen Safe Driving Initiative.

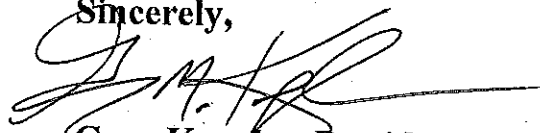
Quality education should have accountability.

The permit test should serve as the pre-test while the knowledge license exam would serve to test understanding and application.

We sincerely believe that this ACT will help to return some integrity to the licensing process.

On behalf of the members of the CDSEA, I thank you for your consideration in passing this bill into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Knepler', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gary Knepler, President

Connecticut Driver Safety Education Association

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